(c) the details of the proposals relating to new railway lines in the State of Andhra Pradesh pending with the Central Government; and

(d) if so, the details of steps taken for its clearance by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per the updating survey completed in 2005-06, the cost of the Cuddapah-Bangalore (255.40 Kms.) new rail line project has been assessed as Rs. 693.67 crore with a rate of return of 9%. The State Government of Andhra Pradesh has agreed to share 50% cost of this project. Final decision on the proposal will be feasible once the survey report is finalized.

(c) and (d) Final clearance for only one proposal, *viz.*, Kakinada-Pithapuram (21.5 Kms.) new rail line is awaited. The Planning Commission has given conditional "in-principle" approval to the proposal. Necessary action has been initiated to obtain requisite clearances.

Electrification of rail tracks

2097. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the policy of his Ministry regarding electrification of railway tracks;

(b) how many proposals for electrification of railway tracks have, so far, been received/recommended in respect of the State of Rajasthan; and

(c) what is the present status of such proposals, till-date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Policy for Railway Electrification are as under:

> Electrification projects are considered primarily on economic considerations excepting projects justified as operational necessity. The criterion/guidelines being followed in this regard are as under:
>
> (i) Each electrification project will be justified on Rate of Return, which should exceed 14% with the Discounted Cash Flow (DCF) method.
>
> (ii) In certain specific cases, electrification will be justified on considerations of operational flexibility.

(iii) While proposing electrification of a route, the rail network in the region in totality should be considered to include, if necessary, short route lengths, which would otherwise remain non-electrified and reduce operational flexibility.

(b) and (c) Following three proposals for electrification of railway track have been recommended by Government of Rajasthan during last two years. The status are as under:

Sl.No.	Section	Status
1.	Bina-Kota	The electrification work has been sanctioned and included in Railway Budget 2006-07 at a cost of Rs. 175.72 crores.
2.	Jaipur-Sawai Madhopur	Not agreed.
3.	Ratlam-Neemuch-Chhitorgarh	Not agreed.

AC trains to boost tourism in Orissa

2098. SHRI B.J. PANDA:
MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry of Tourism has asked his Ministry to start air conditioned trains to boost tourism, especially in the tribal dominated regions;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what is the action plan of the Railways to organize such trains in the tribal dominated areas of Orissa to improve its economy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.